



## Guide To Making Public Comments

Each person has an important perspective on the management of Yosemite National Park and can make a unique contribution to the planning process that will help the National Park Service produce better planning documents. The type of comment that is most useful in evaluating a plan or project depends on how far along it is in the planning process. Yosemite project teams solicit comments during what is referred to as *scoping*, as well as upon release of a draft document. The public is also encouraged to send in general comments for consideration by park staff at any time.

### Scoping Comments

The primary goal of scoping for a project is to determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed. At the time of scoping, the park provides a description of the project proposal, including a statement of the purpose of and need for the project and a list of project goals. The public is asked to submit comments, concerns, and suggestions relating to these goals.

The most useful types of scoping comments consider the following:

- Alternative approaches and ideas for accomplishing project goals
- The range of environmental and socioeconomic issues that need to be considered
- Other potential projects that might affect or be affected by this project
- Information that needs to be considered (such as related research) and why
- Information on how you use the park and how a project might affect that use

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### Comments on Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements

Ideally, comments on an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement assess the adequacy of the document in disclosing and evaluating a project's effects on the environment. These comments are most useful if they are as specific as possible and do the following:

- Discuss a particular plan element or alternative
  - Identify incomplete or incorrect information
  - Offer reasons why a particular alternative or plan element would or would not work
  - Offer a reasonable, new plan element or completely new alternative that could help accomplish the stated goals
  - Point out discrepancies between legal mandates and proposals
  - Highlight deficiencies in the analysis of environmental consequences
  - Provide information on how you use the park and how particular proposals in the planning document would affect that use
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## General Comments

Even outside of a formal planning process, park staff would like to hear your thoughts and ideas relating to planning and management issues affecting Yosemite National Park. All comments received will be read and directed to the appropriate division in the park.

The most useful comments include:

- Your concerns about conditions or activities in the park and possible solutions
- How the National Park Service is accomplishing its mission in Yosemite
- The clarity of proposed project descriptions, their purpose and need
- The overall quality of your visit to Yosemite National Park

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## How to stay involved

Public participation is critical to management and planning in Yosemite National Park. Here are some ways to stay involved:

- Review draft plans, final plans, press releases, and plan updates on the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).
- Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning - related notices.
- Request copies of planning documents.
- Visit the park and talk with park staff.
- Submit written comments.

All comments must be submitted in writing and will be accepted in the following ways:

By mail:      Superintendent  
                    Attn: [Name of plan or project, if applicable]  
                    P.O. Box 577  
                    Yosemite, CA 95389

By fax:         209/379- 1294

By email       Yose\_Planning@nps.gov

The status of Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online: [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).